

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Florham Park Man Sentenced to 30 Months in Prison for Possession of More than 600 Child Pornography Images

(More)

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NEWARK – A Florham Park man was sentenced to concurrent 30 month terms in federal prison today for two counts of possession of child pornography, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

U.S. District Judge Faith S. Hochberg ordered Peter Chiarolanzio, 47, to surrender to the Bureau of Prisons on at a date yet to be determined to begin serving his sentence. Judge Hochberg also sentenced Chiarolanzio to three years of supervised release, during which time he will not be permitted to have access to any computer network and his contact with minors will be limited.

At his plea hearing on Oct. 14, 2005, Chiarolanzio pleaded guilty to a two-count Information. Count One charged that, on Feb. 10, 2004, he possessed more than three images of child pornography on a computer hard drive. Count Two charged that, in March 2000, in the Eastern District of Michigan, he also possessed more than three images of child pornography. Chiarolanzio waived any objections to venue to allow his Michigan conduct to be prosecuted in the District of New Jersey.

According to the plea agreement, Chiarolanzio possessed more than 600 images depicting the sexual exploitation of prepubescent minors. Chiarolanzio admitted, with respect to the images in both counts of the Information, that he obtained the images through the Internet and that the images depicted actual children engaged in sexually explicit conduct, as opposed to computer generated images.

In determining the actual sentence, Judge Hochberg consulted the advisory U.S. Sentence Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentenced ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are give custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Christie credited Special Agents of the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, under the direction of SAC Kyle Hutchins, and Investigators from the Morris County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Michael M. Rubbinaccio, with the investigation of the case.

The government is represented by Assistant United States Attorney Philip James Degnan of the U.S. Attorney's Office Criminal Division in Newark.

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Defense Attorney: Michael N. Pedicini, Esq.